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2004 SMALL GRAINS SUMMARY

WEST VIRGINIA - Winter wheat production for 2004 totaled 260,000 bushels, down 9 percent from 287,000 bushels in 2003. Harvested area for grain totaled 5,000 acres, down 29 percent from 2003. Area planted totaled 8,000 acres, down 33 percent from last year. The average yield of 52.0 bushels was up 11 bushels from the previous year. Estimates for oats, barley and rye are not included in the estimating program for West Virginia.

UNITED STATES - All wheat production totaled 2.16 billion bushels in 2004, up 2 percent from the last forecast but 8 percent below 2003. Grain area is 50.2 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 43.1 bushels per acre, down 1.1 bushels from a year ago. Levels of production and change from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.50 billion bushels, down 13 percent; other spring wheat, 574 million bushels, up 8 percent; and Durum wheat, 90.5 million bushels, down 6 percent.

Oat production is estimated at 117 million bushels, 9 percent below the August 1 forecast and 19 percent below last year's 144 million bushels. The estimated yield is 64.5 bushels per acre, down 1.5 bushels from August and down 0.5 bushel from a year ago. Record high yields are estimated in South Dakota and Washington. Harvested area is 1.81 million acres, 7 percent below the August 1 forecast and 19 percent below last year. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, continuing a steady downward trend.

Barley production is estimated at 280 million bushels, up 3 percent from the August 1 forecast and up 1 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at a record high 69.5 bushels, is up 3.8 bushels from the last forecast and 10.6 bushels above 2003. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 4.03 million acres, down 3 percent from August and 15 percent below a year ago. The increase from the previous production forecast is mostly due to Montana, where harvested area is up 50,000 acres and the yield increased by 8 bushels per acre. For Idaho, North Dakota, and Washington, yields increased from August but are more than offset by decreases in the harvested acreage, resulting in lower production.